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R E P O R T

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the

WARMINSTER AND WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT

for the year

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

1957

Presented to the

WARMINSTER AND WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

by

J. REYNOLDS,

Medical Officer of Health of
the Warminster and Westbury
Rural District Council.

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Health Department,
Craven House,
Warminster, Wilts.

To. The Chairman of the Warminster and Westbury Rural District Council.

Sir,

As directed by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 dated 13th January, 1958, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report relating to the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Warminster and Westbury for the year 1957. I regret the delay in production due to pressure of work and later my absence on sick leave.

It is followed by the Report of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. W.F.C.Merrett, which contains detailed information regarding the sanitary work in the district.

Again I am pleased to thank all Members of the Council for their support and co-operation and it is necessary to stress my indebtedness to your Clerk and all Members of the Public Health Department.

My thanks are also due to the family doctors practising in the district for their whole-hearted co-operation. Without the help of the Directors of the Public Health Laboratories at Bath and Salisbury much of the work could not have been done and to them, also, I express my gratitude.

Detailed comment where necessary is made in the body of the report and I hope this will be found interesting and to the public benefit.

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

WARMINSTER AND WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council: J.Marriott Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: C.R.Algar Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee: R.F.Stratton Esq.

Members of the Public Health Committee:

Councillors:	C.R.Algar, J.P.	Wing Cdr.F.J.B.Powell, M.B.E.
	A.L.Wheeler.	J.Marriott, J.P.
	Mrs. P.Sykes.	W.Wallis.
	Mrs. F.Sykes, J.P.	K.Betts.
	Mrs.M.Pottow.	G.R.Dufosee.
	S.H.Stafford.	J.R.Drake.
	R.F.Stratton.	Miss W.Barker.

Representatives on Westbury and Dilton Marsh Joint Water Committee: Councillors: G.H.Benham. F.G.Smith.

Representative on Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board: Councillor: S.H.Stafford.

MEETING: Friday before the second Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health. Joseph Reynolds, M.C., L.R.C.P.Edin., L.R.C.S.Edin., L.R.F.P.& S. Glas., D.P.H.(Eng.)

Chief Public Health Inspector (Part-time). W.F.C.Merrett, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector. P.M.Ennis, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year.)

Area of District (in acres)	86,155	
Population - Registrar General's Estimate as at 30.6.57.	12,720	(13,350)
Density of Population - Acres per person.	6.9	
Number of Inhabited Houses and Flats as at 31.12.57.	4,197	(4,248)
Number of Council Houses at 31.12.57.	550	(549)
Rateable Value on 1.4.57.	£101,108	(£92,191)
Product of a Penny Rate year ending 31.3.57.	£441. 0s.2d.	(£290. 6s.0d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

a) Live Births.

	Male.		Female.	
TOTAL	100	(96)	96	(106)
Legitimate	96	(90)	90	(100)
Illegitimate	4	(6)	6	(6)

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of the Rural District.	15.4	(15.1)
Live Birth Rate of the Rural District after correction by Area Comparability Factor. (1.19)	18.3	(18.2)
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales.	16.1	(15.6)

b) Still Births.

	Male.		Female.	
TOTAL	3	(1)	2	(4)
Legitimate	3	(1)	2	(4)
Illegitimate	-	(-)	-	(-)

c) Deaths.

	Male.		Female.		Total
No. of Deaths as enumerated by Registrar General.	67	(66)	55	(61)	122 (1

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population of the Rural District.	9.6	(9.5)
Death Rate after correction by Area Comparability Factor. (0.96)	9.2	(9.1)
Death Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales.	11.5	(11.7)

d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Male.		Female.	
TOTAL	1	(Nil)	1	(Nil)
Legitimate	1	(Nil)	1	(Nil)

e) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

TOTAL	1	(Nil)	1	(Nil)
Legitimate	1	(Nil)	1	(Nil)

f)

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Group A - Certain Communicable Diseases.			
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	
2. Tuberculosis, other.	0	0	
3. Syphilitic disease.	0	0	
4. Diphtheria	0	0	
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	
6. Meningoccal infections	0	0	
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	
8. Measles	1	0	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases (except Influenza and Pneumonia)	0	0	
Total Group A.	1	0	1
Group B - Cancer and related Malignant Disease.			
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	2	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	3	0	
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	4	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	
Total Group B.	9	12	21
Group C.			
16. Diabetes	0	1	1
Group D - Heart Disease and other disease of circulatory system.			
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12	
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	5	
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	
20. Other heart disease	12	13	
21. Other circulatory disease	4	3	
Total Group D	41	34	75

f) Contd.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Group E - Respiratory diseases (other than tuberculosis).			
22. Influenza	4	0	
23. Pneumonia	1	2	
24. Bronchitis	0	1	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	
Total Group E	5	4	9
Group F.			
26. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	0	
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	
31. Congenital malformations	0	1	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	
Total Group F	5	4	9
Group G - Accidents and Violence.			
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	0	
34. All other accidents	1	0	
35. Suicide	2	0	
36. Homicide and operations of war	0	0	
Total Group G	6	0	6
37. All Causes	67	55	122

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

(Local Rates after correction by Area Factors.)

Year	Population	Births	Rate per 1,000 population Warminster and Westbury.	Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population Warminster and Westbury.	Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales.	Deaths of Infants under one year of age.
1950	13,570	243	18.9	15.8	173	10.5	11.6	9
1951	14,070	231	18.2	15.5	167	9.9	12.5	3
1952	13,910	198	17.4	15.3	169	10.1	11.3	4
1953	13,760	236	19.1	15.4	137	8.3	11.4	6
1954	13,620	211	18.6	15.2	120	7.7	11.3	3
1955	13,410	194	17.3	15.0	114	8.1	11.7	12
1956	13,350	202	18.2	15.6	127	9.1	11.7	Nil
1957	12,720	196	18.3	16.1	122	9.2	11.5	2

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

a) Laboratory Facilities.

The district is fortunate in having laboratory facilities available to the East and to the West, i.e. in the Pathological Department of the Salisbury Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory in Bath. Practitioners in the district use the most convenient laboratory, a practice followed by this Department when forwarding specimens of water, milk, ice-cream, or suspected foodstuffs for bacteriological investigation.

b) Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance service is provided and controlled by the Wiltshire County Council. The service to this district is controlled from Bradford-on-Avon where the station is manned continuously. A sub-station in Warminster also serves the district. Non-emergency calls must originate from a doctor, dentist, or midwife.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency:-

where there is a dialling system in operation, dial 999

where there is no dialling system, lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

c) Midwifery, Home Nursing, Health Visitors and Home Helps.

These services are provided and controlled by the Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, telephone Trowbridge 3641.

d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Clinics serve the districts:-

1. Ante Natal:
   At the Maternity Hospitals concerned.
   Consultant Clinics are at Trowbridge and Bradford-on-Avon for patients referred by their own doctor or midwife.
   Baptist Chapel, West End, Westbury, Wilts. - Wednesday mornings 10.0 - 12.30 p.m

2. Infant Welfare:
   Methodist Chapel, George Street, Warminster at 2.30 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month.

   Methodist Schoolroom, Station Road, Westbury at 2.30 p.m. every Thursday.

   Progressive Hall, North Bradley at 2.30 - 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

   Trowbridge C.C. Clinic, The Halve, at 2 p.m. on every Tuesday and Thursday.

3. Paediatrics.
   Warminster Hospital on second Friday in each month.
   Trowbridge and District Hospital third Friday in each month.

4. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunization.
   Immunization is undertaken by the County Council and Medical Officers visit the schools in outlying villages at specified dates for this purpose. All family doctors will also carry out immunization.

The Warminster Clinic is held on the fourth Friday of every month at 2 p.m. at the Methodist Schoolroom, George Street, Warminster.

The Westbury Clinic is held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 2.30 p at the Methodist Schoolroom, Station Road, Westbury.

5. Ear, Nose and Throat.
By invitation from the County Council or through the family doctor.
Trowbridge and District Hospital first, third and fifth Mondays, and second and fourth Thursdays in each month.
Westbury Hospital on fourth Tuesday in each month.
Warminster Hospital first Tuesday in each month.

6. Eye.
By invitation from the County Council.
Second, fourth and fifth Fridays in month at Methodist Schoolroom, Warminster.
10.30 to 1 p.m. every Monday at Trowbridge and District Hospital.

7. Orthopaedic.
At Trowbridge, by invitation from the County Council or through the family doctor.
At Warminster - First Monday, first Friday, and second and fourth Thursday in each month.
At Westbury, first Tuesday in each month.

8. Gynaecology.
At Warminster Hospital on fourth Wednesday in each month, and at Westbury Hospital on first and third Monday.

9. Chest Clinic.
Trowbridge - Wednesday mornings and every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cases referred by own Doctor, or by invitation from County Council.

10. Rheumatism.
Alternate Wednesdays at Trowbridge and District Hospital.

11. Radiotherapy Follow Up (Cancer).
At Bristol and Bath by arrangement with the County Council.
At Trowbridge and District Hospital second Thursday in each month.

12. Mental Illness.
Trowbridge and District Hospital every Tuesday afternoon.

13. Chiropody.
By arrangement with the County Council.

14. Venereal Diseases.

	Men.	Women.
General Infirmary, Salisbury.	Tuesday - 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday - 6 - 7.30 p.m.	Wednesday - 6 - 7.30 p.m. Saturday - 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Royal United Hospital, Bath.	Friday - 5 p.m. Saturday - 5 p.m.	Tuesday - 5 p.m. Friday - 2.30 p.m.
St. Martin's Hospital, Bath.	Tuesday - 2 p.m.	Tuesday - 2 p.m.

Welfare Foods are distributed at the W.V.S. centre, 14A Market Place, Warminster on: Monday 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m., Thursday 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Friday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Nursing equipment and appliances can be loaned from the Medical Loan Depot in charge of Mrs. George Nicholls, Marshlands, Upper March Road, Warminster.

e) Hospitals.

The four hospitals noted below serve the district and are controlled by the West Wiltshire Hospital Management Committee:

	Beds.	Classification.	Type of case dealt with.
Warminster Hospital.	30	Wholly general.	Acute medical and surgical cases. Gynaecological cases. Chronic sick patients for short periods only.
Westbury and District Hospital.	20	do.	
Sambourne Hospital.	95	Mainly chronic sick.	Aged chronic sick. Accommodati reserved to the County Council for 26 Welfare residents. Accommodation provided for 2 wayfarers (women only).
Beckford Orthopaedic Hospital, Warminster.	26	Orthopaedic	

Many residents also attend and receive treatment at several Hospitals in Bath and Salisbury.

Maternity cases are admitted to hospitals at Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Salisbury.

Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Trowbridge, Bath and Salisbury. The majority of cases of Tuberculosis are admitted to Winsley Chest Hospital, the Manor Hospital, Bath, and St.John's Hospital, Trowbridge.

f) Mortuary.

An annual payment is made to the West Wiltshire Hospital Management Committee for mortuary facilities at the Sambourne Hospital, Warminster. The visiting pathologist has expressed his satisfaction with the facilities provided.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Weymouth Street,
Warminster.

Telephone: Warminster 2351.

Hours: 9 - 5 p.m.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Market Place,
Warminster.

Springfield Road,
Westbury.

Telephone: Westbury 22.

Hours: 10 - 11.30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

National Assistance Board.

School Lane,
Bollvue Road,
Salisbury.

Telephone: Salisbury 2261.

Bellefield House,
Hilperton Road,
Trowbridge.

Telephone: Trowbridge 2348.

Mental Health Officers.

	Home Address.	During Office Hours.
Mr. C.J.Lewis	40 Westbourne Road, Trowbridge. Telephone: Trowbridge 2696.	County Hall, Trowbridge. Telephone: Trowbridge 3641.
Deputy: Miss B.A.Bezzant	20 Willert, Pewsey. Telephone: Pewsey 2243.	3 Church Street, Pewsey. Telephone: Pewsey 3259.

Outside Office Hours.

Telephone Bradford-on-Avon Ambulance Station to contact the officer on duty.
Telephone: Bradford-on-Avon 2271.

Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

Weymouth Street,
Warminster.

Telephone: Warminster 2361.

Hours: 9 - 5 p.m.

Wallbridge House,
Pontway,
Frome.

Telephone: Frome 2373.

Bellfield House,
Hilperton Road,
Trowbridge.

Telephone: Trowbridge 2348.

SECTION C.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism and snake-bite have been altered. The nearest centres to this district are:

Ham Green Hospital, Bristol. Telephone No. Pill 2165.

The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hotpital (Botulinus antitoxin and snake-bite antivenom only). Telephone No. Southampton 26211

In addition to anthrax anti-serum for prophylactic use, small stocks are being maintained for the treatment of anthrax in patients sensitive to penicillin.

Infectious diseases notified during 1957.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5
Measles	1	-	5	45	55	17	10	12	2	-	-	-	147
Whooping Cough	1	-	4	1	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	17
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Measles	199	3	209	38	313	38	249	38	147
Whooping Cough	32	119	23	115	33	19	32	32	17
Scarlet Fever	2	10	18	10	3	2	10	7	5
Erysipelas	-	5	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lobar Pneumonia	1	2	-	-	-	3	1	1	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	-	5	3	5	-	3	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cutaneous Anthrax	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virus Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Cases on Register at 31.12.57	36	23	16	7
New Cases notified during 1957	2	1	2	-
Transfers in	1	4	-	-
Deaths	1	-	-	-
Recovered	1	1	1	-
Transferred out of District	3	1	1	-

Notifications and Deaths during the year:

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Totals.	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1949	7	4	1	-	8	4
1950	7	3	8	-	15	3
1951	14	1	10	-	24	1
1952	9	4	2	-	11	4
1953	7	2	3	1	10	3
1954	10	-	2	1	12	1
1955	7	-	2	-	9	-
1956	5	1	2	-	7	1
1957	3	1	2	-	5	1

Number of Cases on Register at end of each year:

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1949	39	19	58
1950	39	21	60
1951	47	30	77
1952	51	30	81
1953	58	27	85
1954	61	23	84
1955	61	23	84
1956	58	23	81
1957	59	23	82

Section 47. National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under this section has been necessary during 1957.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX STATISTICS 1957.

From figures supplied by courtesy of Dr. C.D.L.Lycett, C.M.O.H., Wiltshire.

Live Births	Age Group	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total under 15
During 1953 - 236	Primary imms. completed during 1953	61	79	14	3	4	13	5	179
1954 - 211	1954	78	71	18	10	4	13	2	196
1955 - 194	1955	78	(----------62----------)				(---------17---------)		157
1956 - 202	1956	87	52	(----------21----------)			18	1	179
1957 - 196	1957	121	14	(---------- 9----------)			11	-	155
	Reinf. injs.administered during 1953	-	(----------12----------)				(--------364----------)		376
	1954	-	(----------13----------)				(--------272----------)		285
	1955	-	(---------- 4----------)				(--------158----------)		162
	1956	-	(---------- 7----------)				218	49	274
	1957	-	-	(----------17----------)			109	4	130
	Total immunized child population at 31st December 1953	11	86	40	153	145	*148 **812	*363 **576	2334
	1954	9	106	124	152	157	*160 **817	*388 **561	2474
	1955	10	121	156	132	171	*209 **860	*326 **760	2745
	1956	40	94	132	154	139	*207 **797	*414 **569	2546
	1957	38	122	118	159	177	*241 **858	*597 **472	2782

* Immunized before 1. 1.53 ** Immunized since 1.1.53.

Age Group		Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over
Vaccinations against Smallpox	1953	85	6	5	3	8
	1954	92	4	6	2	4
	1955	86	7	5	5	1
	1956	76	2	2	1	17
	1957	92	5	6	3	8
Re-vaccinations	1957	-	-	1	1	11

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Twenty four dealers were licensed during the year, four less than in 1956. The licences issued were:

	To use designation	Tuberculin Tested	-	12
	-do-	Pasteurized	-	8
	-do-	Sterilized	-	1
Supplementary	-do-	Tuberculin Tested	-	12
-do-	-do-	Pasteurized	-	10

Milk Sampling.

Milk supplied in the Rural District is also extensively supplied in the adjacent Urban Areas which enables me to have a better knowledge of its condition than that derived from sampling in the Rural District alone.

Twenty two samples of tuberculin tested milk were examined. Four samples failed the methylene blue test and four yielded cultures of brucella abortus. All biological tests for tuberculosis were negative but one was positive for brucellosis. The milk infected with brucella caused at least one case of undulant fever and, in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a notice was served on the producer ordering all milk from the premises to be treated by heat before sale for human consumption.

Fifteen samples of pasteurized milk were examined and all gave satisfactory results. I repeat the advice I give annually. The only safe milk to drink is pasteurized milk. No other milk is supplied to any school within the district.

Following complaints of poor keeping quality, the bottle washing methods at one dairy were investigated. Only four of the first eighteen bottles examined were clean but later one hundred per cent were satisfactory. The retailer later disposed of his business.

Other complaints related to sour tastes in milk. The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Wiltshire County Council kindly co-operated in having the milk examined. The Analyst reported the sour tastes to be due to a high lactic acid content and not to any contaminant.

Ice Cream.

Ice Cream intended for sale is not manufactured in the district but forty eight retailers are licensed and their premises subject to inspection. The Public Health Inspectors state that time did not permit for samples to be taken.

Food Premises.

Food Shops, public houses and cafes were regularly inspected and were generally satisfactory apart from some public houses. Representations have been made to the owners for improvements in lavatory accommodation.

The Inspector spends an increasing amount of time on Meat Inspection at the one slaughterhouse in the district and all carcases are inspected. The results are tabulated as part of his report. Five slaughtermen are licensed. In conjunction with officers of the River Board and Town and Country Planning an alternative site was advised in regard to a proposed slaughterhouse.

Watercress.

The bacterial flora of some of the cress beds in the district was investigated in close co-operation with the Director of the Bath Public Health Laboratory. The results were satisfactory and the work will continue.

Rodent Control.

The sale of rat poison containing germs dangerous to human beings has been nationally prohibited. The good work done by the Council staff is detailed later in the report and is undoubtedly not only an economic necessity but a factor conducive to the public health.

SECTION E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The outstanding item to report is that definite progress was made during the year towards the re-grouping of Wiltshire water undertakings since a major portion of my work is devoted towards the provision of wholesome water in the District.

Two of the supplies controlled by the Council are mechanically sterilized by chlorination, Codford and Luccombe. Sixty one samples of treated water from Codford and fifty seven from Luccombe were bacteriologically examined. Four samples showed coliform organisms. The Ministry of Health advises that chlorinated supplies should never fail to give a water free from coliform bacteria and this standard has yet to be attained.

Four parishes receive treated water supplied by the Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board. The quality of the water has been satisfactory except in Upton Scudamore where the reservoir controlled by the Council is subject to pollution from birds. Other treated supplies to Dilton Marsh (Westbury and Dilton Marsh Water Board) parts of Chitterne (War Department), Bishopstrow (Warminster Urban District), have also been satisfactory.

Twelve parishes have unsatisfactory supplies which will be remedied by a Regional scheme after the advent of the new undertaking mentioned in my first paragraph.

A chemical examination was made of water from one parish when a case of methhaemoglobinaemia was discovered. The water supply was not to blame.

Sewage Disposal.

Some of the older Council houses at Bratton, Keevil, Chapmanslade and Hill Deverill have been without a water carriage system. This has now been remedied by the provision of water closets.

Housing.

One family was found to be living in primitive conditions in an abandoned Service building. They found alternative housing accommodation by a change of employment and the farmer controlling the building received permission for its use as a store.

A second family living in a house unfit for human habitation was regarded by all property owners as being in the category "unsatisfactory tenants". Co-operation between this Housing Authority and the Welfare Authority resulted in the family being rehoused in intermediate accommodation.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Local Authority co-operates with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the National Survey of atmospheric pollution. Data is now available for this rural area which would permit comparison should a cement works operate in the area at a later date.

The apparatus used is that approved by the D.S.I.R. consisting of a glass collecting funnel of known area which feeds into a bottle of anout 10 litres capacity. The bottle is changed each month and the sample bottle submitted to the Public Analyst for the City of Bristol. Examination reveals the rainfall and the amount of soluble and insoluble matter deposited during the period. A period of twelve months in 1957 gave the following figures for the Rural District Gauge and I am indebted to the Public Analyst for the use of the other figures for comparison.

	Total Annual Deposit Tons per sq. mile.		Total Rainfall in inches.	
	1956.	1957.	1956.	1957.
Zoological Gardens, Bristol (1).	100.83	104.6	26.86	32.9
South Road, Portishead (13).	202.54	167.0	24.87	29.4
Street Farm, Dursley Glos. (3).	72.23	59.1	24.57	28.2
Fullingbridge Farm (to Nov.1956) Cross Roads Farm, Edington (from Dec.1956) (4). Warminster and Westbury R.D.C.	48.47	61.01	20.57	26.55

Mr. W.F.C.Merrett, Senior Public Health Inspector, reports as follows:

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

As stated in previous years the position of sewage disposal within the district is extremely difficult. Greater activity has been noticed in the fields of Private Enterprise Housing and improvements to old properties over the past few years and will no doubt continue to increase. This will tend to aggravate an already difficult problem of ditch cleansing and the prevention of nuisance from clogged soakaways and overflowing septic tanks. This Authority now holds responsibility for 14,156 yds. of ditches, 9,489 yds. of Council House drains and sewers, and 61 disposal works. The staff employed numbers 4, and one vehicle is employed to transport these men and their tools to and from each site. Owing to the unpleasant nature of this work staff difficulties arise from time to time. It is felt that it would be in the Council's interest to proceed as soon as possible with sewage schemes for the district and also to purchase a cesspool emptier of their own for the emptying of Septic Tanks and Disposal Plants. The present cost of emptying these tanks by contract with the Cleansing Service (Southern Counties) Ltd. amounts to over £300 per year. Whilst the initial cost of such a vehicle is high this amount could be offset by saving the Contractors' charges and the income from emptying private septic tanks, whilst it should also be borne in mind that the vehicle could be used to cleanse long lengths of ditches which, at present, are dug and cleansed by hand.

HOUSING.

(a) Future Housing Programme.

Plans were put in hand during the year for the erection of a small number of houses and old people's dwellings. Owing to preliminary delays work had not commenced by the end of the year.

(b) Private Enterprise Housing.

Fourteen houses were completed during the year and twenty-seven were under construction at the end of December, 1957.

(c) Improvement Grants.

Demand for these facilities continued to increase during the year. Applications in respect of fifty properties were received and grants totalling £10,606 were approved. With the consequent increase of Rateable Value in respect of these properties the cost to this Authority of the grants made will be largely offset over a period of time and, in addition, a large number of properties have been provided with amenities which, in these days, can only be classed as "essentials".

(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act.

No application for certificates of disrepair were received during 1957.

(e) Housing Act, 1936, and Public Health Act, 1936.

Fifteen Informal Notices were served. All of these, together with two carried over from 1956, were complied with by the end of the year.

(f) Camps and Requisitioned Property.

All sites have now been closed.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Further improvements to one of the licensed sites were carried out during the year and the number of caravans was increased to forty.

There are still a number of individual caravans sited in the district but, where possible, applicants are requested to site their caravans on a licensed site either in this or adjoining districts.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

No waste paper was disposed of during the year owing to the cost of salvaging and baling far exceeding the revenue offered by the Mills.

Mechanical plant was employed at Knook and Penleigh Tips during the year on levelling and general tidying up.

RODENT CONTROL.

Inspections and treatments were seriously curtailed during the year due to the prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease.

No. of Complaints	76
No. of dwellinghouse and business premises inspections and re-inspections	2,050
No. of Agricultural Inspections and re-inspections	160
No. of dwellinghouses and business premises found infested	441
No. of Agricultural properties found infested	106
No. of dwellinghouses and business premises treated by Local Authority	378
No. of Agricultural properties treated by Local Authority	5
No. of Block Control Schemes	40

CONTROL OF VERMIN AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The few infestations reported to this Department were all dealt with satisfactorily.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories on the register at the end of 1957 is twenty-nine. No action was required during the year. Thirty-two outworkers were notified as employed in the district, mainly on glovemaking.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The gauge is to remain in its present position until October, 1958 when it is hoped it will be resited to the west. Thanks are again due to the farmer concerne and to the City Analyst's Department at Bristol.

WATER SUPPLY.

The mains owned by the Heytesbury Estate serving the parishes of Heytesbury and Norton Bavant were taken over early in the year, together with the reservoir, and the supply of water from the old Pump House was discontinued. Water is now supplied from the Council's well at Codford via the main to Knook. Owing to lack of pressure at a few points a booster pump was installed in the pipe line and water fed to the high level reservoir at Heytesbury.

Faults continued to show themselves on lengths of main in the North Eastern Area mainly in the region of Wick Farms, Keevil, and consideration is being given to replacing the lengths of Cast Iron main with Asbestos Cement Pipes where they are laid in Bremeridge Clay.

Due, no doubt, to the amount of rainfall no acute shortage of water was experienced during 1957 but the overflow from the adits at Luccombe Springs did cease for a period of six weeks.

Number of Dwellinghouses supplied direct from Public Water Mains controlled by Rural District Council.

Parish.	No. of Dwellinghouses at:				
	31.12.53.	31.12.54.	31.12.55.	31.12.56.	31.12.57.
Bratton	194	205	208	209	231
Bishopstrow	46	46	46	46	54
Boyton and Corton					36
Bulkington					43
Chapmanslade	124	126	130	131	158
Chitterne					34
Codford	92	94	102	107	159
Corsley					121
Dilton Marsh	376	376	376	376	418
East Coulston					21
Edington					173
Heytesbury					154
Longbridge Deverill					39
Hinton					38
Keevil	77	79	81	83	85
Knook					31
Norton Bavant					28
Steeple Ashton	213	218	222	227	226
Sutton Veny	135	136	138	138	174
Upton Scudamore	45	45	46	48	62
Upton Lovel	31	37	41	43	48
West Ashton	45	47	52	52	76

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955/1956.

As will be seen from the summary of inspections 304 visits were paid to food premises during the year. Help and advice was given where required and in most cases traders were co-operative.

RURAL HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

1. Number of permanent dwellings in district at end of year..... 4,197

2. Number of permanent dwellings in district owned by local authority. 550

3. Inspection of dwellings during year.

   (i) Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts..... 15

   (ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts 80

   (iii) Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 12

   (iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 80

4. Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action. 73

5. Action under Statutory Powers:

   Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957.

   (i) Number of demolition Orders made ..... Nil

   (ii) Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders .... Nil

   (iii) Number of undertakings accepted 1

   (iv) Number of undertakings completed ..... Nil

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Miscellaneous goods condemned during 1957.

No goods were condemned during the year (for meat see table on following page).

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION. (Contd.)

The work of inspecting carcases at the licensed slaughterhouse proceeded smoothly and details of the inspections are given below. The condition of this slaughterhouse and of butchers' shops generally has been satisfactory. A proposal for an additional slaughterhouse was submitted during the year but details had not been finalised by December 31st, 1957.

Condemned meat and offal is collected by National By Products.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	77	4	58	87	118	-
Number inspected	77	4	58	87	118	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	-	-	3	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	1	3	3	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	6.49%	-	6.89%	3.66%	2.54%	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.3%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
CYSTICEROSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL					
Carcases submitted to treatment by Refrigeration						
Generalised and totally condemned						

INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of inspections and visits made during 1957:-

No. of complaints	118
No. of inspections	63
Infectious diseases	14
Tents, Vans, Sheds	19
Water supplies and samples	762
Drainage, Sewage Works, Ditches	139
Factories and Workplaces	11
Houses inspected	80
Re-visits to above	120
New cases of overcrowding	1
Re-visits to above	1
Cases abated	1
Verminous Premises	8
Meat and Food inspections	91
Slaughterhouses	97
Butchers' Shops	77
Dairies	41
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	12
Ice Cream Premises	8
General Food Shops	28
Fried Fish Shops	3
Licensed Premises	27
Visits re Milk Samples and Bottle Washings	83
Refuse Disposal	35
Atmospheric Pollution	24
Improvement Grants	40
Town and Country Planning and Building Byelaws.	69
Water Tests to Drains	128
Works in Progress	311
Council Estates	20
Petroleum Acts	5
Miscellaneous Visits	62

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

A table is appended giving details of inspections under these Acts.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	29	8	-	-
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	29	8	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect.110(1)(c).
Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	32
TOTAL	32